

An Assessment of microfinance enterprises contribution on women micro-entrepreneurs  
empowerment in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

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The main objective of the study was to examine the impact of microfinance on women entrepreneurship and the contributions and the implications of microfinance institutions on empowering women and promoting entrepreneurship. Specifically the researcher wanted to know the microfinance credit impacts on women empowerment in terms of full autonomy, control of loans among them, ability to make choices of the businesses they want to transact and capability to make decision on loans they have acquired. The study analyzed the impact of micro-finance credit on women's empowerment in Sinza Ward at Kinondoni District. Despite the growing number of micro-finance programs in Tanzania, limited analysis of the impact of micro-finance on women has been conducted. Women in Tanzania lack financial opportunities such as credit due to deep rooted customary cultural barriers and existing social norms among others. The study was carried at Heri Microfinance Company Ltd as a case study. The population of the study includes credit officers and Managers of the Heri Microfinance Tanzania and women who acquire loans from the institution. The study revealed that the majority of the women have experienced positive changes on their lives through microfinance credit opportunities offered by Heri Microfinance Tanzania. Some women respondents encountered wide ranging risks associated with taking loan, including lending methodology and family constraints. However, the study argues the MFIs to gather more information on women's needs and design state of the art products and different new delivery models and strategies to meet those needs, thereby ensuring effective outreach. This includes conducting and/or supporting action oriented research on best practices on empowerment, monitoring and improving women's well – being.